



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

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# News Release

## **TWO CHARGED IN ILLEGAL EMPLOYMENT CONSPIRACY** *Company accused of supplying illegal employees to restaurants throughout central U.S.*

GRAND FORKS, N.D.—An investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) resulted in today's arraignment of two members of a Texas-based employment agency in federal court here that are accused of recruiting illegal aliens to supply workers to Asian restaurants throughout the central United States.

Shan Wei Yu, 51, and An Dong Cen, 35, made their initial appearance today before U.S. Magistrate Judge Alice R. Senechal. They and six alleged co-conspirators have been indicted by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of North Dakota for conspiring to recruit more than 50 illegal aliens in Texas and transport them to Asian restaurants in the upper Midwest, including, but not limited to, restaurants in: North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Michigan, Wisconsin and Ohio.

The six additional defendants are: Li Hua Wang, Ya Cao, Xin Min Li, Ying Xin Tsu Tang, Xiao Fang Yang, and Junming Zhang.

Two of the defendants, Shan Wei Yu and Ya Cao, along with the company they owned, Great Texas Employment Agency Inc., in McKinney, Texas, have also been charged with money laundering conspiracy.

"Local ICE agents uncovered what appears to be a criminal employment organization that was based in Texas but reached all the way up to Grand Forks," said Michael Mach, resident agent-in-charge of the Grand Forks ICE office. "We cracked open the organization here, and now believe it's been pulled up by the roots."



In late February, ICE agents arrested Shan Wei Yu in McKinney, Texas; Li Hua Wang in Plano, Texas, and An Dong Cen, Xin Min Li, Ying Xin Tsu Tang in Houston. Ya Cao, Xiao Fang Yang and Junming Zhang are fugitives.

The investigation began in late August when border patrol agents with U.S. Customs and Border Protection apprehended two illegal aliens near Grand Forks. The two revealed that they had been working at the Buffet House restaurant on Gateway Dr. in Grand Forks, but left because the owners required them to work long hours seven days a week for very little pay.

ICE special agents began an investigation, which resulted in search warrants being served on the restaurant and a nearby apartment in early September. Agents arrested five illegal aliens and both restaurant owners, Yun Di Lu and Hong Peng. Both Lu and Peng pleaded guilty to harboring illegal aliens in late 2004 and each was sentenced to four months in prison. Lu and Peng are still in deportation proceedings in the U.S.

Resident Agent-in-Charge Michael Mach said, “These unscrupulous business owners kept illegal employees in virtual indentured servitude, while they reaped the financial rewards of a popular restaurant.”

According to U.S. Attorney Drew Wrigley, the convictions were the state’s first which involved harboring illegal aliens.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*